REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action dated July 26, 2005. New claims 57-69 have been added; and claim 49 canceled. Thus, claims 46-48 and 50-69 are now pending.

Claims 48-50 stand rejected under Section 112, second paragraph. It is respectfully submitted that the changes to these claims above address and overcome any potential issue in this respect.

Claim 46 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by Levatter (US 4,005,374). This Section 102(b) rejection is respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

Claim 46 as amended requires "first and second electrodes provided at different elevations and which are approximately parallel to one another, first and second sectional sidewalls provided at least partially between the first and second electrodes, an elongated cavity defined between opposing major surfaces of the first and second electrodes and between the first and second sidewalls, and wherein an optical axis of the laser is defined at least partially in the elongated cavity along a lengthwise direction of the cavity so that the optical axis is provided between opposing approximately parallel surfaces of the first and second electrodes, at least one protrusion on the first and/or second electrode, the protrusion extending into the cavity from the first and/or second electrode so that the protrusion extends from a main body of the first and/or second electrode into the cavity in a direction transverse to the optical axis of the laser." For example and without limitation, the figures of the instant application illustrate first and second electrodes (2 and 4) provided at different elevations and which are approximately parallel to one another (e.g., see parallel electrodes 2 and 4 in Figs. 1-3 and 5-9), first and second sectional sidewalls 3 provided at least partially between the first and second electrodes, an elongated

cavity 6 defined between opposing major surfaces of the first and second electrodes 2, 4 and between the first and second sidewalls 3. Moreover, for example, the optical axis of the laser is defined at least partially in the elongated cavity along a lengthwise direction of the cavity so that the optical axis is provided between opposing approximately parallel surfaces of the first and second electrodes 2, 4, and the protrusion(s) 12 extends from a main body of the first and/or second electrode into the cavity in a direction transverse to the optical axis of the laser (e.g., see Figs. 9 for example protrusions, and paragraph 0038 for an example optical axis of the laser). Levatter fails to disclose or suggest the aforesaid underlined features of claim 46.

Levatter discloses a pumped gas laser having point-shaped electrodes 16, 18 on the left and right sides of a discharge chamber 19. The Office Action contends that the points of the electrodes 16, 18 shown in Figs. 4-5 are the claimed "protrusions." However, there are number of significant differences between the invention of claim 46 and the entirely unrelated laser of Levatter.

First, claim 46 requires that the first and second electrodes are at "different elevations and which are approximately parallel to one another." In contrast, Levatter's electrodes 16, 18 are coaxial, at the same elevation, and are not approximately parallel to one another. Levatter is entirely unrelated to the invention of claim 46 in this respect. *Second*, claim 46 requires an "elongated cavity defined between opposing major surfaces of the first and second electrodes and between the first and second sidewalls." Levatter fails to disclose or suggest this. Levatter's cavity 19 is not defined between opposing major surfaces of first and second electrodes and between first and second sidewalls as required by claim 46. Indeed, Levatter's laser is of an entirely different type and is unrelated to the invention of claim 46 in these respects. *Third*, claim 46 requires that the laser's "optical axis is provided between opposing approximately

parallel surfaces of the first and second electrodes." In contrast, Levatter's electrodes 16, 18 are not substantially parallel to each other, and the optical axis of Levatter's laser cannot be located between opposing approximately parallel surfaces of first and second electrodes as required by claim 46. At least these three differences evidence that Levatter's laser is of a completely different type than that being claimed in claim 46, and is unrelated to the same. Levatter cannot anticipate or render obvious the invention of claim 46.

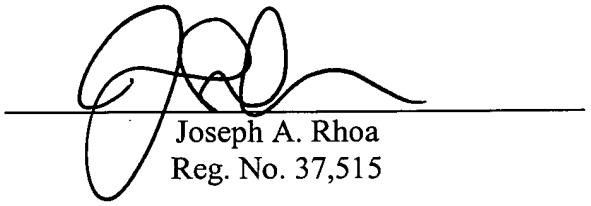
Claim 58 requires that "*the first electrode is at a top side but not a bottom side of the elongated cavity, and the second electrode is at a bottom side but not a top side of the elongated cavity.*" Levatter fails to disclose or suggest these features of claim 58.

Claim 64 requires "first and second sectional sidewalls provided at least partially between the first and second electrodes, an elongated cavity defined between at least opposing major surfaces of the first and second electrodes and between the first and second sidewalls, and wherein the first and second electrodes are continuous and are each provided along the entire length of the cavity, at least one protrusion on the first and/or second electrode, the protrusion extending into the cavity from the first and/or second electrode so that the protrusion extends from a main body of the first and/or second electrode into the cavity in a direction transverse to an optical axis of the laser, and wherein the first electrode is provided at a top side but not a bottom side of the elongated cavity, and the second electrode is at a bottom side but not a top side of the elongated cavity." Levatter fails to disclose or suggest at least the aforesaid underlined features of claim 64.

It is respectfully requested that all rejections be withdrawn. All claims are in condition for allowance. If any minor matter remains to be resolved, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned with regard to the same.

Respectfully submitted,

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